UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2001/156
19 April 2001

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-seventh session
Agenda items 5 and 9

THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Letter dated 17 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

We have seen a letter of 9 April 2001 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Malaysia transmitting, in her capacity as the Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Geneva, a statement adopted by the "OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir", along with a memorandum presented to this Group by the self-styled "True Representatives of Jammu and Kashmir".

The OIC Contact Group has no locus standi to circulate papers on the internal affairs of my country.

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In a democracy, representatives of the people can only be elected by the people themselves; they can neither be self-appointed nor designated by foreign countries. It is highly ironical that an organization supported and sustained by the terrorist activities of its foreign mentors claims to represent the people in a state of India. The State of Jammu and Kashmir has a popularly elected government, which enjoys the mandate of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Government of India totally rejects the baseless allegations contained in the statement and the memorandum referred to above.

I would like to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda items 5 and 9.

(Signed) Savitri KUNADI
Ambassador